

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 25 APR 2006

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Applicant's or agent's file reference 05P009:RC:LS	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/AU2005/000268	International filing date (day/month/year) 25 February 2005	Priority date (day/month/year) 25 February 2004
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. G09B 19/04 (2006.01) G09B 5/04 (2006.01)		
Applicant CURTIR HOLDINGS PTY LTD et al		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
 - a. ☒ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of 3 sheets, as follows:
 - ☐ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
 - ☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
 - b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or table related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 20 September 2005	Date of completion of this report 05 April 2006
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer ROBERT BARTRAM Telephone No. (02) 6283 2215

Box No. I Basis of the report1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on:☒ The international application in the language in which it was filed☐ A translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:☐ international search (under Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b))☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))☐ international preliminary examination (Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished☒ the description:pages **1-6** as originally filed/furnished

pages* received by this Authority on _____ with the letter of

pages* received by this Authority on _____ with the letter of

☐ the claims:

pages as originally filed/furnished

pages* as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages* **7-9** received by this Authority on **28 March 2006** with the letter of **the same**

pages* received by this Authority on _____ with the letter of

☒ the drawings:pages **1/17-17/17** as originally filed/furnished

pages* received by this Authority on _____ with the letter of

pages* received by this Authority on _____ with the letter of

☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:☐ the description, pages☐ the claims, Nos.☐ the drawings, sheets/figs☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).☐ the description, pages☐ the claims, Nos.☐ the drawings, sheets/figs☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-22	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-22	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-22	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

D1) The Macquarie Library Pty Ltd, "The Macquarie Dictionary", Second revision, 1988

D2) US 6077080 A (RAI) 20 June 2000

D3) US 5429513 A (DIAZ-PLAZA) 4 July 1995

D4) WO 2004/025603 A1 (GUFFANTI) 25 March 2004

D5) US 5906492 A (PUTTERMAN) 25 May 1999

Novelty and inventive step: Claims 1-22

None of the documents listed above or any obvious combination of them disclose all of the features defined in claims 1-22. In particular a system for coding letters in an alphabet for word pronunciation comprising four code indicators associated in position with a letter or group of letters that indicate lower case, upper case, silent sounds, and sound varied from upper and lower case letter sounds having a variation sign and symbol and furthermore the first three code indicators are non alpha signs. Therefore these claims are considered to be both novel and inventive in light of the documents listed above.

CLAIMS

1. A system of coding letters in an alphabet for word pronunciation comprising:
 - (a) a first code indicator for association in position with one letter or one group of letters in a word for indicating a lower case letter sound of the first indicator associated letter or group of letter;
 - (b) a second code indicator for association in position with one letter or one group of letters in a word for indicating an upper case letter sound of the second indicator associated letter or group of letter;
 - (c) a third code indicator for association in position with one letter or one group of letters in a word for indicating a silent sound attributed to the third indicator associated letter or group of letter; and
 - (d) a fourth code indicator for association in position with one letter or one group of letters in a word for indicating use of a sound varied from the lower case or upper case letter sound of the fourth indicator associated letter or group of letters, and having a variation sign for indicating that the associated letter or group of letters being a sound varied from the lower case or upper case letter sound of the fourth indicator associated letter or group of letters, and a variation symbol for indicating a specific variation sound of a set of predetermined variation sounds for the fourth code associated letter or group of letters; and
 - (e) wherein said first, second and third codes indicators being non alpha signs.
2. The system according to claim 1 wherein the first code indicator being associated with a group of two or more letters for indicating blending of the sounds of the first code associated group of letters.
3. The system according to claim 2 wherein the first code indicator being positionable in between adjacent letters in the group of letters for indicating blending of the sounds of the adjacent letters.
4. The system according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the first code indicator is a dot (.) sign positioned adjacent to the first code associated letter or group of letters.
5. The system according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the second code indicator being associated with a group of two or more letters for indicating blending of the sounds of the second code associated group of letters.

6. The system according to claim 5 wherein the second code indicator being selectively extendable for association with the group of letters for indicating blending of the sounds of the second code associated letters.
7. The system according to claim 5 or 6 wherein the second code indicator is a dash (-) sign positioned adjacent to the second code associated letter or group of letters.
8. The system according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the third code indicator being selectively extendable for association with a group of two or more letters for indicating a silent sound of the third code associated group of letters.
9. The system according to claim 8 wherein the third code indicator is a box (□) sign positioned to contain the third code associated letter or group of letters therein.
10. The system according to any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein the fourth code indicator being selectively extendable for association with a group of two or more letters for indicating use of a sound varying from the sounds of the lower case or upper case letters.
11. The system according to any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein the variation sign being in the form of a tilda (~) sign.
12. The system according to any one of claims 1 to 11 wherein the variation symbols for indicating variation sounds including lower case letters for indicating corresponding lower case letter sounds, upper case letters for indicating corresponding upper case letter sounds, and numerals for indicating respective other specific variation sounds of the set of predetermined variation sounds.
13. The system according to claim 12 wherein the numerals include "1" for the "aow" sound, "2" for the "ar" sound, "3" for the "er" sound, "4" for the "OOe" sound, "5" for the "Or" sound, and "6" for the "ou" sound.
14. The system according to any one of claims 1 to 13 wherein the lower case letter sounds include the sounds for "a", "b", "c", "ch", "d", "e", "f", "g", "h", "i", "j", "k", "l", "m", "n", "o", "p", "q", "r", "s", "sh", "t", "th", "u", "v", "w", "x", "y", and "z" and the upper case letter sounds include "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "ef=F", "G", "Ach=H", "I", "ja=J", "kA=K", "el=L", "em=M", "en=N", "O", "P", "Cu=Q", "ar=R", "es=S", "T", "U", "V", "dbl U=W", "ex=X", "wl=Y", AND "zed=Z".
15. An alphabet sound card including corresponding lower case letters and upper case letters arranged in groups, and variation sounds, and associated with the code indicators arranged according to the system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14.

16. The card according to claim 15 further including pictorial means and/or words associated with a letter or letters for guiding use of appropriate sound(s) for the letter(s).
17. A booklet including words and letters in one or more of the words being arranged according to the system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14.
18. A computer program including means for generating words formed with one or more letters, and means for associating the letter or letters of each of the words with a code indicator(s) and wherein the code indicators being arranged according to the system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14.
19. The computer program according to claim 18 wherein further including sound generating means arranged to generate an appropriate sound signal for the or each of the associated code indicator.
20. The computer program according to claim 18 wherein the sound generating means having a number of audio messages and a message selector associated with each letter or word or a passage for selecting one or more predetermined audio messages, and being arranged to generate an appropriate sound signal corresponding to the one or more predetermined audio messages when a message selector is selected.
21. An electronic device including a visual display unit, storage means, processing means and a computer program as claimed in one of claims 18 to 20, wherein the computer program being stored in the storage means and the processing means is arranged to generate words in respond to instructions from the computer program and to display the generated words on the visual display unit.
22. The electronic device according to claim 21 wherein the processing means being arranged to cause an audio arrangement to produce sounds in according with the generated sound signals from the sound generating means.